

MOTH VINE*Araujia hortorum***CLIMBERS AND
GROUND COVERS****Family** Asclepiadaceae**Origin** South America

Description An evergreen vine that grows to a height of 2m. The vine prefers rich, moist soils in shaded and protected positions. The species is drought and frost tender¹. On the Central Coast the species invades hind-dunes, rainforest and bushland².

Stems/Leaves Slender, woody and twining stems sometimes branched. Stems glabrous with new growth being covered with short white hairs. Leaves opposite, narrowly triangular, with bases being truncate to cordate. Upper surface of the leaves is glabrous, glossy and dark green, whilst the under surface is grey-green, minutely pitted and covered with minute hairs¹¹.

Flowers The bell-shaped flowers are white, waxy, fragrant and occur just below the leaf axils. Flowers are pollinated by insects¹¹.

Fruit/Seed The large fruit resembles a pear. Feathery seeds are encased within the fruit². Seeds are dispersed by the wind and the plant also reproduces vegetatively from severed underground stems or crowns. Seed production is prolific, viability is high, but longevity is undocumented¹¹.

Root system Not described as rhizomatous, but under certain conditions severed pieces of underground stems or crowns can produce new roots and shoots¹¹.

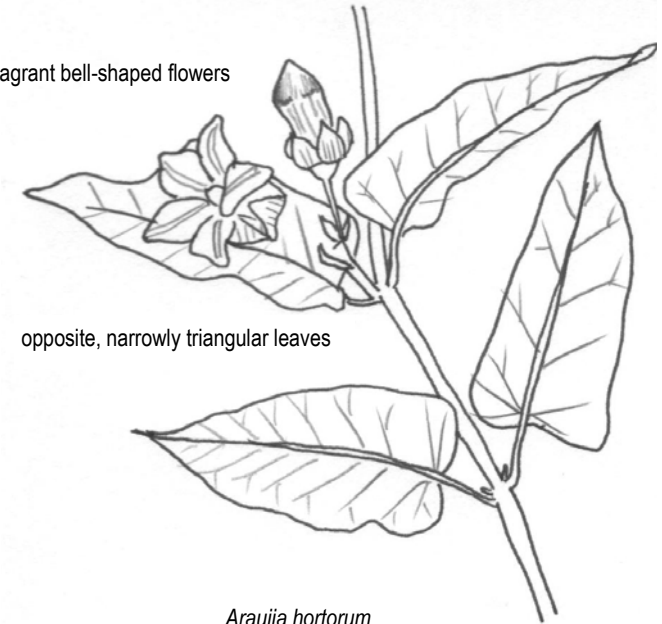
Removal techniques

Manual Hand remove entire plant including the roots. Cut off and remove all mature seed pods before removing the vine from its host. Cut away as much of the vine as possible from the host. Remove the stem base using a spade or long handled garden fork²¹.

Chemical Chemical controls are available. The cut/scrape and paint with herbicide method is effective².

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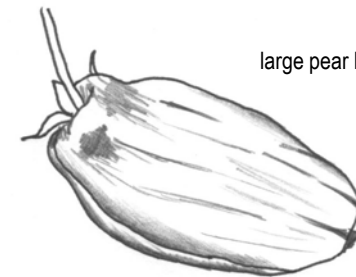
white, fragrant bell-shaped flowers



opposite, narrowly triangular leaves

Araujia hortorum

large pear like fruit



MOTH VINE

Araujia horticola

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Araujia horticola

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